

In view of the condition of the city of Newark and of the national economy, I have difficulty in understanding the action of this Council in introducing and passing this ordinance.

Certainly, there is no question of the legality of your action. You are in the favorable position of being able to dictate your salaries and that of the Mayor, who must approve your decisions.

However, there are considerations which transcend mere legality, and are valid guide lines for the behavior of public officials.

We live in what was founded as a free, democratic society. After 200 years, it is not perfect, but I believe we are still working toward that goal. Two qualities are essential in citizens and public officials to make such a society work. They are self-discipline and a disposition to make some sacrifice for the common good. If enough citizens and public officials do not have these two qualities, a free democratic society will fail to survive.

It follows then, that any citizen who does not possess the qualities of self-discipline and the disposition to make some sacrifice for the common good, is less than fit to hold public office.

Passage of this ordinance at this time, indicates that you may not have the qualities of self-discipline and the disposition to make some sacrifice for the common good, and raises a question as to your fitness to hold public office.

Abraham Lincoln said, "While the people retain their virtue and vigilance, no administration by any extreme of wickedness or folly, can very seriously injure the government in the short space of four years."

True. But the people have lost much of their vigilance and virtue, and politicians tend to take advantage of that fact.

Passage of this ordinance on first reading revealed an attitude of callous insensitivity unbecoming in public officials. This Council would do well to reject this ordinance, and thereby attempt to regain the respect and confidence of the citizens of Newark.

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8/8/79
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